

MACON COUNTY

DRAWER 12

DECATUR

71 2001 022 05-12



# Illinois Decatur

## Macon County

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

## A Lincoln Shrine



Above is the old Major Warnick homestead, at which Abraham Lincoln was a frequent guest. This is one of the major shrines along the Decatur-Springfield section of the Lincoln National Memorial Highway. Above is the sign which has been erected at the old home. Similar signs have been placed at other shrines along what is known as the old Springfield-Terre Haute road.

**DECATUR ILL REVIEW**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 7, 1929,**

*Illinois State Journal*  
*April 22 1930.*

### Lincoln Tomb Visitors

BY H. W. FAY, CUSTODIAN

There were one hundred twenty callers registered yesterday at Lincoln's tomb.

Edwin Davis of Decatur passed a couple of hours at Memorial hall. He is engaged in writing a history of Macon county and has a lot of details. His aim is to verify every statement by the official records and has a lot of very desirable data. He has put in a lot of time establishing the location of the Thomas Lincoln log cabin, the route Lincoln went over in entering Macon county. He finds that they went to Decatur, camped over night, and the next day went to the John Hank's home a few miles northwest of Decatur. Here the women and children stayed until the men folks had built the log cabin on the Sangamon river. He has a lot of data in regard to the Hanks family. William Hanks, a brother of the mother of the president, was one of the pioneers of Macon county. His sons, John, William, jr., and James, were prominent residents of Macon county and the Hanks' name is constantly in the records.

Miss Lena Herndon, the school teacher, brought out a group of boys and girls.

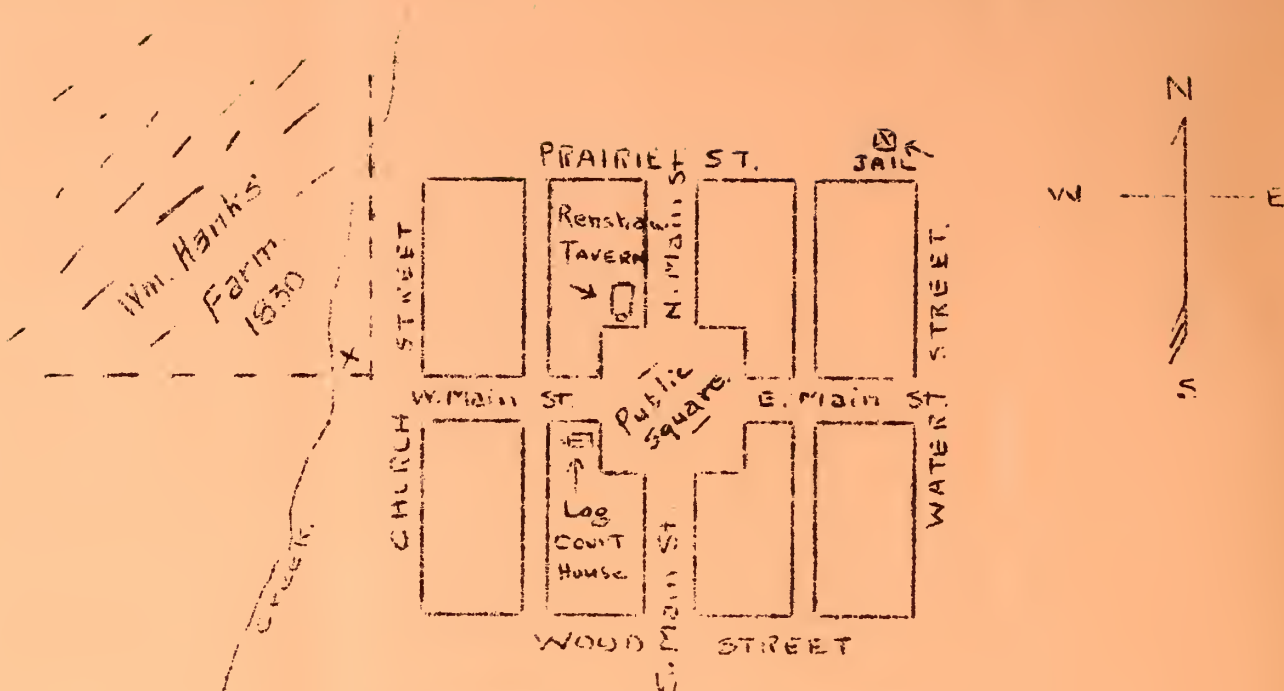
George Teaburg of Rock Island went the round.

Charles A. T. Krimnell and sister, Carrie Krimnell, of Ft. Wayne, Ind., heard many stories of Lincoln and visited the tomb proper.

Mrs. L. T. Lundy of Taylorville and party of Taylorville were afternoon guests.

Miss Inez McCullough brought out Mr. and Mrs. Sam Humphrey and two daughters of Buffalo, N. Y., and Miss Jessie Humphrey of Normal. Mr. Humphrey years ago lived at Petersburg where his father was a pastor.





Decatur, Macon Co., Illinois  
in 1830.

The Thomas Lincoln family moved from Spencer County, Indiana, to Decatur - Macon County - Illinois in the spring of 1830.

This move was directly influenced by the fact that Abrahams' Uncle William Hanks and his cousins John, James and William Jr., had already settled in Macon County and that John sent word to his kinfolks in Indiana telling them of the fine woods and prairies, and advising them to "pull up stakes" and to come to Illinois.

And even tho the cabin, smokehouse and barn that Thomas Lincoln and his son Abraham built lay some miles west of Decatur (this on a high bluff overlooking the Sangamon river) Abe found time to do some spring plowing on the William Hanks farm of 80 acres that lay immediately west of and adjoining the new town of Decatur.

It was while plowing in this field that Abe heard a commotion in front of the Renshaw Tavern - left his oxen standing at the lower corner of the field and made his way, barefoot, up the gently sloping hillside to the Tavern site.

As was usual - the topic was politics and Abe spoke for the Old Line Whig party to which he adhered. And - tho tradition says that "the crowd cheered wildly" - the gathering must have been sparse indeed for there were but very few settlers here as yet and James Renshaw, the Tavern owner, had just completed his structure a few months earlier.

Tradition adds that this "ovation" convinced Abe of his ability to address his fellow men.

Lincoln Questionnaire

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Name of town Decatur County Macon State Illinois

Date or dates when Lincoln spoke there Lincoln Lore, No. 122, enclosed  
has all we can find.

Has a marker or monument ever been erected to commemorate his address? No  
Other markers but not for addresses.

If so, when was it dedicated? \_\_\_\_\_

Is any literature referring to it, or a photograph of it available?

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Any further information such as donor, inscription on tablet, or other data of interest would be appreciated.

We receive Lincoln Lore, thank you.

### THE SANGAMON RIVER

This photograph was taken from the exact spot where local tradition places the site of the Lincoln cabin in Macon County.





View of Sangamon River from the side of the  
Macon County Homestead

June 1929

original  
in safe

MACON COUNTY HOMESTEAD MARKER

This marker is located in the yard of a farm house of the Scroggins estate , and is about an eighth of a mile north of the traditional site of the cabin.



Scroggins farm about  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a mile north of traditional  
cabin 3.6  
Macon County Ill Homestead marker

## THE SANGAMON RIVER.

When Lincoln left home and started life for himself, he went from the Mcon Co. home near Decatur to Springfield by canoe, floating down the Sangamon River, which he was to follow further in his trip to New Orleans. The picture shows a part of the river which he traversed.



original in safe



Sangamon River - where L. traveled by canoe from  
Macon County to Springfield, Ill



## THE MACON COUNTY HOME

This picture shows the first home of the Lincolns in Illinois, situated in Macon County, seven miles southwest of Decatur on the Sangamon river. Bv. I-104.



THE LINCOLN HOME IN ILLINOIS.  
Where the 3,000 Bells were kept.

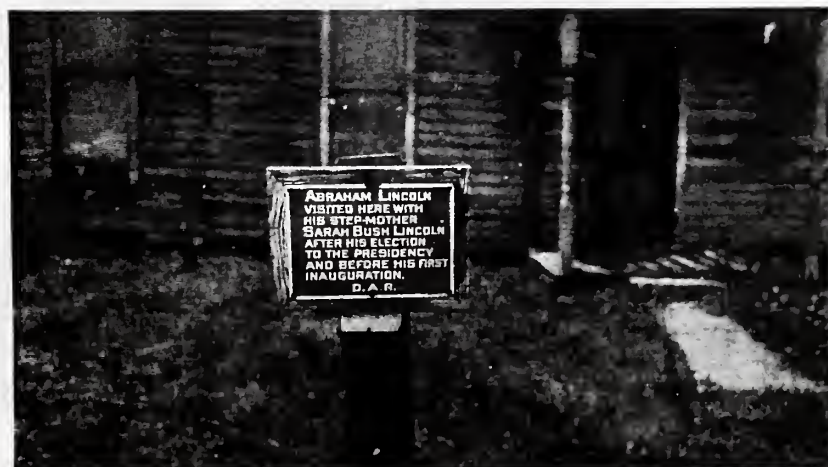
March 1861

## THE MACON COUNTY HOME OF THE LINCOLNS

This engraving shows another view of the first Illinois homestead. The figures are said to represent John and Dennis Hanks. The Lincoln anniversary edition of the Lerna Weekly Eagle for February, 1928, states that this cabin was removed in 1865 for exhibition in Boston and Chicago, and was afterward lost by an English syndicate intending to take it abroad.



Coles County, Ill



Coles County Ill





Coles County Ill.



Coles County Ill

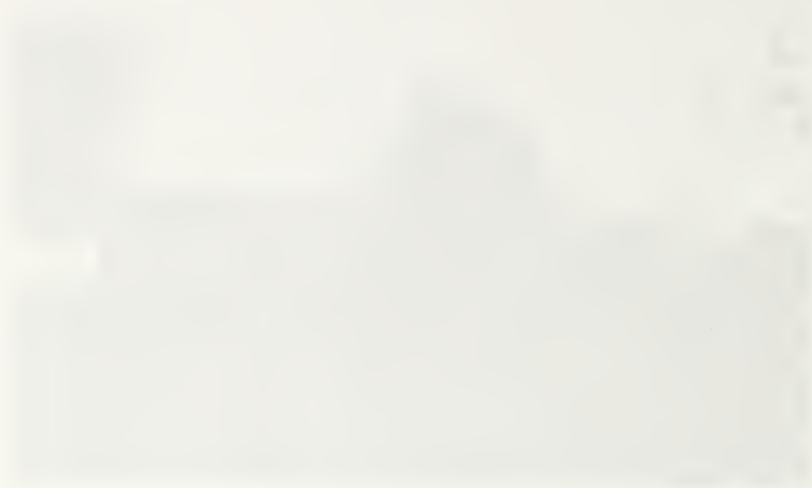


original safe



The house at Farmington, Coles County where  
Lincoln is said to have stopped during his  
visit in this neighborhood in 1860.

June 1929



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CHICAGO, ILL. 60637  
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## PERMANENT EXHIBITS



GRANDMA'S KITCHEN



ONE ROOM SCHOOL

## TYPICAL OF ROTATING EXHIBITS

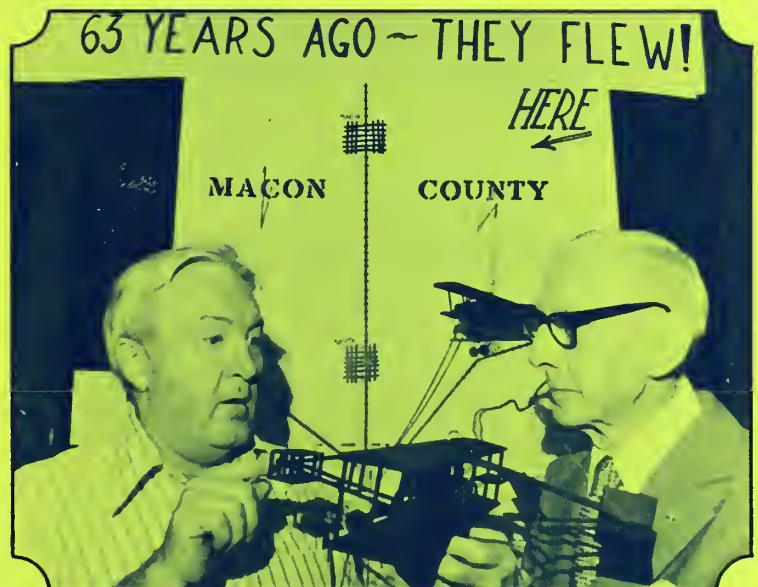
### A LIVING MUSEUM

meeting "people-needs"...not only to capture our heritage but to mirror LIFE in our Region..its industry, its schools, its people and their interests..

Group Tours and/or old fashion dinners, may be arranged. Phone 217-672-3658.



**LABOR  
DAY  
WEEKEND**  
ANNUAL  
EVENT



COMMEMORATING 1st AIRPLANE FLIGHT DOWNSTATE

## A WAY OF LIFE RECAPTURED



SHEEP SHEARING



APPLE BUTTER MAKING



WOOL CARDING



"IN THE LAND OF MR. LINCOLN."

# THE MACON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## PROVIDES:

- north fork museum
- yesteryear fair
- yesteryear antique show
- home for youth groups
- guided tours for all ages
- group study of antiques
- craft classes



WHERE AMERICA'S HERITAGE  
LIVES AGAIN FOR YOU...

5326 North Fork Road • Decatur, Illinois 62523

## NORTH FORK MUSEUM

5326 North Fork Road  
Decatur, Illinois 62523

STAMP  
HERE

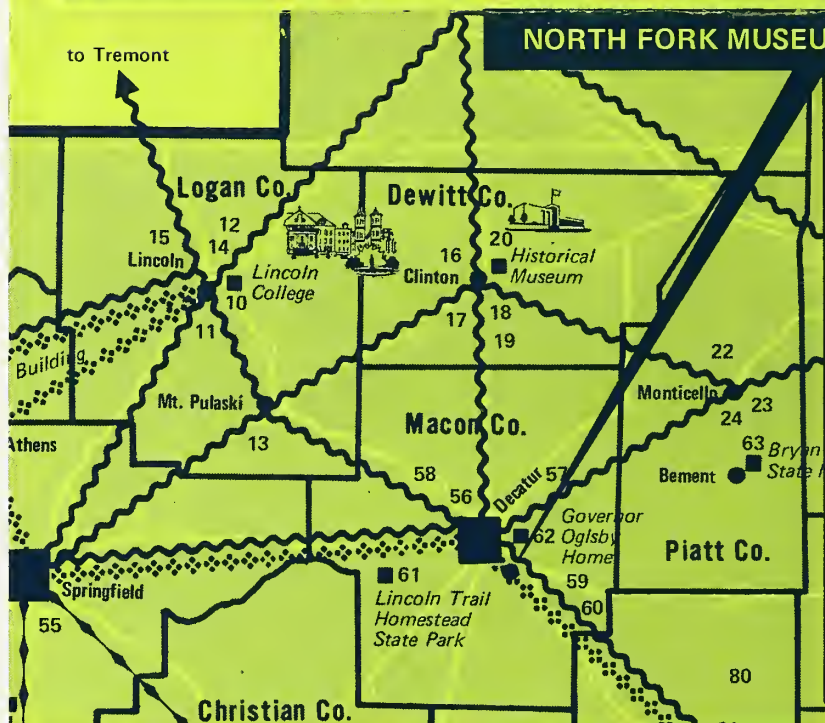
SEND TO A FRIEND

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



25M 4/74

Dept. of Business  
and Economic  
Development  
Tourism Div.

**TOUR  
ILLINOIS**



MACON COUNTY

DRAWER 12

DECATUR

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